

ABSTRACT

An optical film(3) of the invention comprises a polarizing
 5 plate(1) , in which a transparent protective film(1b) is laminated on
 both sides of a polarizer(1a), and plural retardation films(2) so that
 an absorption axis of the polarizing plate(1) is perpendicular or
 parallel to slow axes of the plural retardation films(2) and the slow
 axes of the plural retardation films(2) are parallel to one another.
 10 An Nz value expressed by $N_z = (n_{x1} - n_{z1}) / (n_{x1} - n_{y1})$ is in the range
 of from 0.15 to 0.85 and an in-plane retardation Re_1 expressed by
 $Re_1 = (n_{x1} - n_{y1}) \times d_1$ is in the range of from 200 to 350 nm, where
 in each of the plural retardation films, a direction along with the
 refractive index in the film plane is maximum is defined as the
 15 X-axis, a direction perpendicular to the X-axis as the Y-axis, the
 thickness direction of the film as the Z-axis, and where refractive
 indices in each axial direction are defined as n_{x1} , n_{y1} , and n_{z1} ,
 respectively, and the thickness of the film as d_1 (nm). The optical
 film may realize an easily viewable display with high contrast ratio
 20 in a wide range and may provide a retardation value stabilized
 under conditions of high temperature or high humidity